

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed July 15, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 4 and 8-10 are canceled. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed July 15, 2004, claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,971,180 (Kobayashi).

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Kobayashi.

Claim 10 was found to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the allowable subject matter, independent claim 1 is rewritten including the limitations of allowable claim 10 and intervening claim 9. In view of the amendments, independent claim 1 is allowable as containing allowable subject matter.

Dependent claims 2-3 and 5-7, being dependent on independent claim 1, are deemed allowable for the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claim 1.

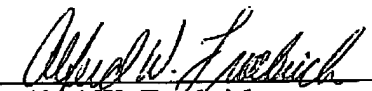
The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By


Alfred W. Froeblich
Reg. No. 38,887
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

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